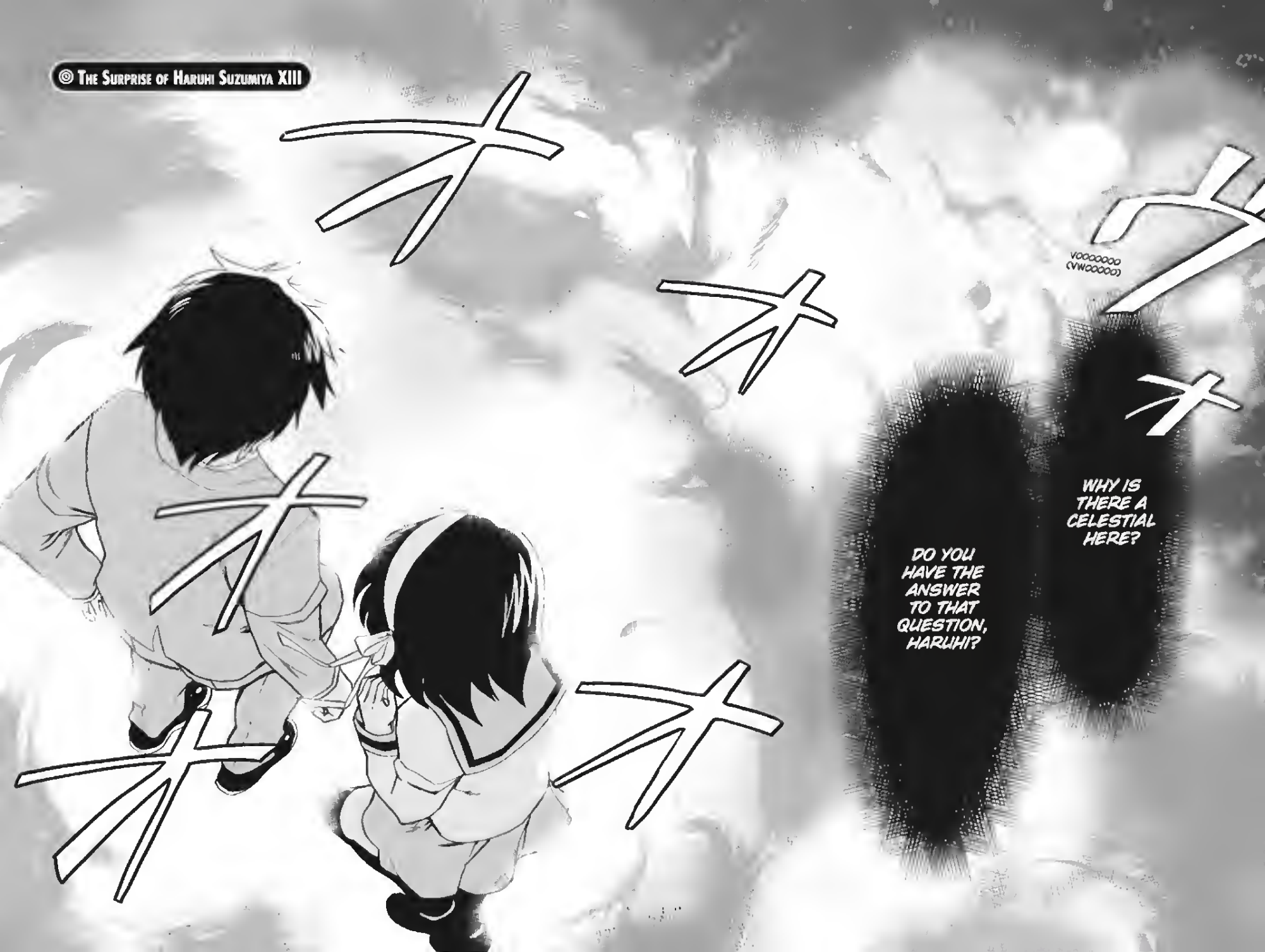
IT CAN'T BE!
UUU (VROOO)
HOW CAN THAT THING BE HERE —!?
I LOOK UP, AND THERE'S A GIANT WALL?
NO, IT'S NOT.
IT'S... A CELESTIAL.
GUGUGU (RRRMMMBLE)
THOSE ARMS THAT CAN SMASH ANY BUILDING...
THAT FAINTLY BLUE GLOWING OUTLINE ...
UUU


VOOOOOOO
(VWOOOOO)
WHY IS THERE A CELESTIAL HERE?
DO YOU HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, HARUHI?

...JUST AS AN ORANGE-COLORED EXPLOSION BLEW THROUGH THE WINDOW.
FROM THE PALM OF THE CELESTIAL, I LOOKED UP TO THE CLUB ROOM...
HN...
I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT FUJIWARA, BUT I HOPED THAT ASAHINA THE ELDER AND KYOKO TACHIBANA WERE SAFE.
I GUESS KOIZUMI HAD FINALLY LOST HIS TEMPER.
THE CELESTIAL... HELPED US?
GUGUGU (FURIOUS)
ゴゴゴ

GO
(BOOOM)
IT JUST PUNCHED THE CLUB ROOM—!?
EVERYTHING SEEMED TO HAPPEN IN SLOW MOTION.
I WAS ASSAILED BY A SENSE OF TIME COMPRESSION.
THAT SILHOUETTE, IT WAS...

PI
(TING)
...YASUMI...
WATAHASHI...
HYUUU
(WHOOOOOO)
I COULDN'T MAKE OUT HER FACE, BUT I WAS SURE THAT SHE WAS SMILING.
(UU)
(WOO)
IS THAT...
HYUU

ASAKURA...
KIMIDORI-SAN!...
SO THEY'D COME.
NO LONGER CONFINED TO HER BED.
AS QUIET AND HEALTHY AS EVER.
AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, YUKI NAGATO.
I COULDN'T IMAGINE THAT THESE THREE WOULD HAVE FAILED TO NOTICE THE DISTORTIONS IN THE AXIS OF TIME.
POSITIONED OUTSIDE THE WORLD, THE DATA OVERMIND WOULD KNOW.
JUST LIKE IN THAT ENDLESSLY REPEATED AUGUST...
UGH— MY VISION...

MAYBE IT WAS MEANT FOR ME.
MAYBE SHE WAS SAYING GOOD-BYE.
YASUMI WATAHASHI WAS WAVING AT ME.
AAH ...
I JUST HAD THAT FEELING.
I WOULD PROBABLY NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO ASK.
WHERE AM I...?
UUH—!
DOSA (FLUMP)
OW...
WHAT? WHERE IS THIS?
WHERE DID I GET SENT THIS TIME?

THE STUDENTS WALKING AROUND SEEMED MORE SOPHISTICATED, SOMEHOW...
WITH MODERN SCHOOL BUILDINGS...
IT WAS A SCHOOL... BUT NOT NORTH HIGH.
HEY.
THIS HAD TO BE A COLLEGE SOMEWHERE.
WHAT'S WRONG, KYON?
HARU ...
...!?

I WAS SPEECHLESS.
SHE WAS SOMEHOW MORE GROWN-UP-LOOKING. NOT JUST THAT..
...UH, YES, SHE HAD CLEARLY MATURED.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? HEY...!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, WEARING THAT OLD UNIFORM?
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

KYON... WAIT.
YOU SEEM KIND OF YOUNG...
ZA (ZUP)
HUH?

WAIT... HOW!?
THIS WAS THE DOOR.
THE WILL OF TIME WAS TRYING TO RETURN ME TO MY ORIGINAL PLACE.
MY VISION WENT DARK AGAIN.
YOU'RE THERE TOO...?
...SEE YOU, KYON.
...SAID HER KIND, BEAUTIFUL SMILE.

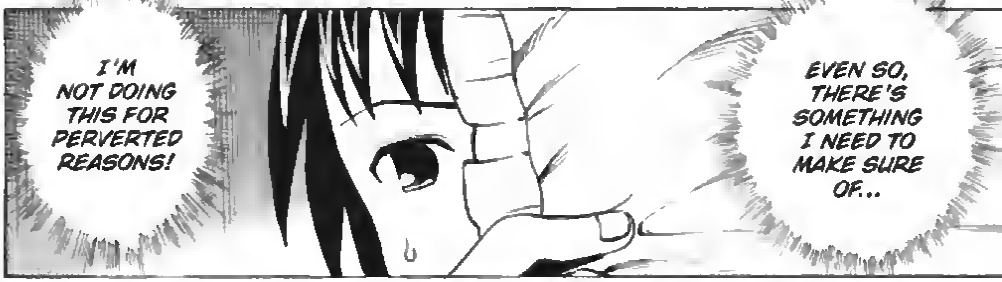
GUH...
DO (THUMP)
HNGUH?
GOSO (SHUFF)
I SEEMED TO HAVE LANDED ON A STRANGELY SPRINGY SOMETHING.
MY FALL THROUGH THE DARKNESS ENDED.
MY STOMACH FELT READY TO TURN INSIDE OUT, BUT I MANAGED TO STAND.
...WHERE WAS I?

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

EVEN THOUGH I'D NEVER ONCE ENTERED IT, SOMEHOW I WAS SURE OF THAT MUCH.
I FINALLY REALIZED.
THIS WAS HARUHI'S ROOM AND HARUHI'S BED.

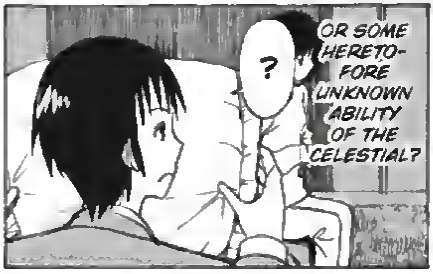
WHERE ...

CLOSE YOUR EYES ...
...AND PUT THE COVERS OVER YOUR HEAD!
S-SURE ...
*BAAN (SHOVE)
HEY!


I'M NOT DOING THIS FOR PERVERTED REASONS!
EVEN SO, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO MAKE SURE OF...

IT WAS THE MIDDLE OF APRIL WHEN I'D FALLEN INTO THE CELESTIAL'S HAND.
SO ASSUMING THE CLOCK'S NOT WAY OFF...
ALARM
MAY
THERE IT IS.
IT'S A DAY IN MAY.. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

IT WAS ALMOST A MONTH IN THE FUTURE FROM THAT DAY.
WHAT THE HECK?

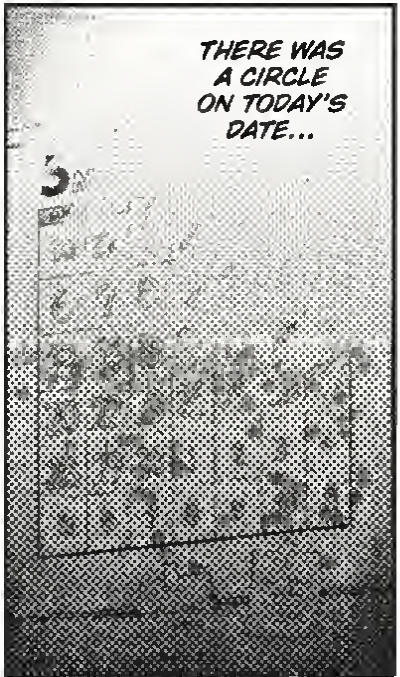

?
OR SOME HERETOFORE UNKNOWN ABILITY OF THE CELESTIAL?

WAS THIS ASAHINA THE ELDER'S DOING?
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D JUMPED INTO THE FUTURE.

I WONDER IF SOMEBODY'S OUT THERE.
A PEBBLE HITTING THE WINDOW?

I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS THE ANNIVERSARY OF.
AFTER ALL, I'D DONE SOMETHING SIMILAR FOR A DAY ON MY CALENDAR'S APRIL PAGE.

コン
KON (NOKK)
コツン
KOTSUN (KATUNK)


THERE WAS A CIRCLE ON TODAY'S DATE...

MIKURU-CHAN!
AND KOIZUMI-KUN, AND YUKI!
I FELT A DEEP SENSE OF RELIEF.
PASHI (KATCH)
THIS IS FOR YOU.
BIG GOSS
WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE AT THIS HOUR?

THIS...
EACH BRIGADE MEMBER HAD WRITTEN ONE OF THE PHRASES.
MY HANDWRITING WAS THERE, THOUGH I HAD NO MEMORY OF PUTTING IT THERE.
SOS団結成一周年記念日
IN HONOR OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SOS BRIGADE
団員一同より団長閣下へ
FROM THE BRIGADE MEMBERS TO HER EXCELLENCY, THE BRIGADE CHIEF
WITH A YEAR'S WORTH OF OUR DEEPEST THANKS
THE BRIGADE MEMBERS

IT WAS AS IMPORTANT AND UNFORGETTABLE A DAY AS OUR HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
EVERYBODY HAD REMEMBERED.

...MARKED EXACTLY ONE YEAR SINCE HARUHI HAD DECLARED THE FOUNDATION OF THE SOS BRIGADE.
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS DATE, THIS VERY DAY...

SAVE THE WORLD BY OVERLOADING IT, WITH FUN, HARUHI SUZUMIYA BRIGADE! THE SOS BRIGADE!
FROM NOW ON, THIS IS OUR CLUB ROOM!

HARUHI.
WH-WHAT?

THIS WAS THE REAL REASON I WAS HERE, RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KOIZUMI, NAGATO, ASAHINA-SAN?

AH...
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK AS OUR BRIGADE CHIEF.
I HOPE YOU'LL FAVOR US MOVING FORWARD.
STUPID.
THIS...
GIKU (TWITCH)
ギクッ
BY THE WAY, KYON.
HOW DID YOU GET IN MY ROOM?
SHE ACCEPTED THE PRESENT POLITELY.
IT FELT LIKE A SENTI-MENTAL BREEZE BLEW BY.

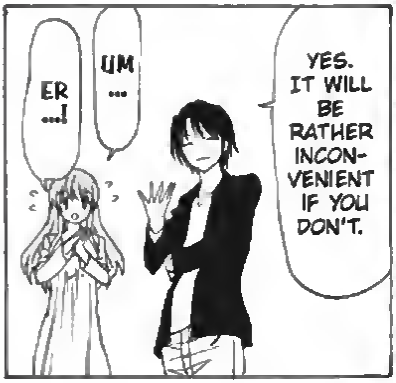
SOMEONE COULD'VE CALLED THE POLICE ON YOU.
ISN'T THAT KINDA OVER-DOING IT?
YOTTO (FIDGET) よっと
UH, THROUGH THE WINDOW.
YOU'VE GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL WITH YOUR LOCKS.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD REALLY SURPRISE YOU.
TO (TUP) トッ
TO トッ
IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A SURPRISE, THEN, WOULD IT?
CHA (FLIK) チャッ
IF YOU WERE GONNA DO A SURPRISE EVENT, YOU COULD'VE PICKED A BETTER TIME.
CHIKA (CHIK) チカッ
YEAH... I GUESS.
TO トッ
AND ANYWAY, YOU WERE PROBABLY EXPECTING SOME-THING, RIGHT?
TO トッ

...THANKS.
MY APOLOGIES FOR COMING SO LATE AT NIGHT.
BUT THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE WHO JUST HAD TO EXPRESS THEIR DEEP FEELINGS, YOU SEE.
HER SMILE OUTSHONE THE FULL MOON.
NORMALLY HER GRIN BLAZED LIKE A VAST STAR. BUT THIS WAS LIKE A PEACEFUL MOON.
ALL I COULD DO WAS GAZE BACK AT HER.
I...

I HOPE THAT YOU'LL LOOK FORWARD TO OPENING IT AND FINDING OUT.
INCIDENTALLY, THE PERSON WHO CHOSE IT IS YOUR BEDROOM INTRUDER HERE.
IT'S PRETTY LATE.
LET'S MEET UP LATER IN THE CLUB ROOM.
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S IN THIS?
1
BUT WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
GYUUU (KRUUSH)
PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE JUST LEFT EVERYTHING ELSE TO HIM TOO.
HE WAS RATHER INSISTENT ABOUT DOING IT HIMSELF.
TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME.
MAKE SURE YUKI AND MIKURU-CHAN GET HOME SAFE, GOT THAT?
THAT'S AN ORDER FROM YOUR BRIGADE CHIEF!

I SUPPOSE SHE DOES HAVE A CUTE SIDE.
SHE REALLY WAS BEING CONSIDERATE OF BOTH HER PARENTS AND NEIGHBORS.
SHE LEFT US WITH THOSE WORDS, SPOKEN AT A SURPRISINGLY REASONABLE VOLUME, THEN WENT BACK INSIDE HER HOUSE.

WHICH MEANS ...
...I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO ANOTHER TIME JUMP.


ER ...!
UM ...
YES. IT WILL BE RATHER INCONVENIENT IF YOU DON'T.

I KNOW THIS IS THE MIDDLE OF MAY.
AND SINCE I'VE MADE LONGER TIME JUMPS THAN THAT, I CAN'T SAY I'M TOO SURPRISED.
BUT IT IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE JUMPED INTO THE FUTURE.

IN JUST A MOMENT.
AND I'M THE ONE WHO DOES THAT.
YOU MUST BE SENT BACK TO YOUR ORIGINAL TIME.
THAT IS NOT A SUITABLE SOLUTION FOR THIS PROBLEM.
NO.
CAN'T I JUST SLEEP IN A TIME-FREEZE UNTIL THE RIGHT MOMENT COMES?
THE ONE WHO RETURNED FROM THIS TIME TO A MONTH AGO.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S ANOTHER YOU THAT EXISTS IN THIS TIME.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, KOI-ZUMI?

IN THE CASE OF TIME TRAVEL, THERE REALLY IS ONLY ONE OF YOU.
AND YOUR DOUBLE EXISTENCE HERE REMAINS UNRESOLVED.
I'VE HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH OF FUSING WITH ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF MYSELF.
THAT WAS A DIFFERENT CASE.
IT WAS SIMPLY THAT THERE, YOUR ORIGINAL SELF HAD SPLIT INTO TWO VERSIONS.
MUUUU (HNNNG)
FOR US, YOU RETURNING TO THE PAST IS A MATTER OF HISTORY!
AND IT WOULD GO AGAINST THE FIXED EVENT, SO...
...YOU REALLY MUST GO BACK.
SO THAT WAS HOW IT WAS.
THE PROOF THAT I DID RETURN TO MY PROPER TIME WAS IN THE FACT THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER ME IN THIS TIME.
AND THAT WAS THE "ME" THAT I HAD TO BECOME.
ANYWAY, IT'S JUST A MONTH.
THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THREE YEARS.

WE WANTED TO BRING THE YOU THAT EXISTS IN THIS TIME PERIOD ALONG TOO, BUT...
YOU INSISTED THAT YOU REALLY DIDN'T WANT TO MEET YOURSELF.
SO JUST THE THREE OF US CAME.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE WHAT I'D SAY.
INCIDENTALLY, I WAS TOLD TO KEEP THE NATURE OF SUZUMIYA'S PRESENT A SECRET.
PLEASE GIVE THE MATTER SOME THOUGHT ONCE YOU RETURN TO YOUR PROPER TIME.
AND PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO TELL THE US OF A MONTH AGO ABOUT TODAY.
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO MY PAST SELF.
YEAH, I'LL LOOK YOU UP RIGHT AWAY.
CAN I USE THE CLUB ROOM FOR THAT?

...I SUPPOSE I'LL LEAVE THAT TO YOU. YOU NEEDN'T OVERTHINK IT.
NO, WE'LL ACTUALLY BE MEETING IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION.
AS FOR WHERE THAT IS...
THE EVER-SILENT GIRL SAID NOTHING.
I LOOKED TO NAGATO.
I WAS SURE THAT SHE'D BEEN ONE OF THOSE FIGURES ON THE ROOF.
AND KOIZUMI HAD SAID THAT THERE'D BEEN NO CHANGE TO THE α-ROUTE NAGATO.
FAR FROM IT. HE'D EVEN MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT YASUMI TELLING HER TO GO.

WHAT YASUMI WAS AND THE REASON THE CELESTIAL APPEARED BACK THERE?
DID YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, NAGATO?

YES!
SHALL WE GO, ASAHINA-SAN?

AFTER FOLLOWING ORDERS FOR SO LONG, THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIME SHE TOOK THE INITIATIVE.
AND SHE PROBABLY WAS.

ASAHINA-SAN SEEMED PLEASED THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING USEFUL FOR HER TO DO.

BUT FIRST ...
ASAHINA-SAN.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS?
A YOUNGER BROTHER, PERHAPS?
HEE-HEE!
INFOR-MATION ABOUT MY FAMILY...
...IS CLASSIFIED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL!
I'LL BET.
HER WINK WAS PERFECT, AS ALWAYS.

HAVING EXPERIENCED IT SEVERAL TIMES, I WAS FINALLY STARTING TO GET USED TO TIME TRAVEL.
WAS THAT BECAUSE A TIME SPAN OF ONE MONTH WAS LESS THAN THREE YEARS...
THE WEIGHTLESS, DIZZYING FEELING SOON PASSED.
...SO THE TIME TRAVEL INVOLVED WAS SHORTER TOO?
NYUH —!
(WHIMPER)
OWW...
IN ANY CASE, THERE I WAS, ON MY BED.

HEY, SHAMI-SEN.
SORRY FOR JUST APPEARING LIKE THAT.
SURPRISED? WELL, I'M HOME, BUDDY.
GA (GRP)
FIRST I HAD TO CHECK THE TIME.
ON A DAY IN EARLY APRIL, A FRIDAY, 8 PM...
SHA (SHIFF)
...I RETURNED TO MY ROOM.

JUST TWO HOURS EARLIER, I'D BEEN INVOLVED IN A DESPERATE STRUGGLE FOR THE FATE OF THE WORLD, OR THE FUTURE.
IF I WERE TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT, THE ONLY PERSON WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME OTHER THAN THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE WAS PROBABLY SASAKI.
NOT THAT IT WAS A STORY I PARTICULARLY WANTED TO BROADCAST.

I DECIDED TO TAKE ONE DAY OUT OF THE WEEKEND TO CLEAR MY HEAD.

I'D FINALLY MANAGED TO RETURN TO MY NORMAL LIFE.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA XIII : END

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya